

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 EUR-12 NEA-11 ACDA-12
AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCS-06 CA-01 OPR-02 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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O P 181130Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4170
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSAHSA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

S E C R E T LOME 1631

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS MOPS PORG GG OAU US TO
SUBJ: CONSULTATION WITH GOT ON SHABA INVASION; EYADEMA
VISITS BONGO TO DISCUSS OAU ROLE

REF: A STATE 125192 B STATE 125218

1. DRAWING ON TALKING POINTS IN REF A AND SHABA SITREPS
THROUGH NO 6, CHARGE MET WITH SEC GEN RANDOLPH OF MFA
MORNING OF MAY 18 TO OPEN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON SHABA
INVASION. FORMIN KODJO IS IN FRANCE.

2. RANDOLPH PICKED UP IMMEDIATELY ON CHARGE'S OPENING
REMARK THAT HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO OPEN AN EXCHANGE
OF VIEWS WITH GOT AND PRESENTED LENGTHLY ANALYSIS OF GOT
POSITION. HE STRESSED THAT EXCELLENT STATE-TO-STATE
RELATIONS BETWEEN TOGO AND ZAIRE ARE REENFORCED BY CLOSE
FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN EYADEMA AND MOBUTO. DURING LAST YEAR'S
INVASION, EYADEMA HAD EVEN TOURED COMBAT ZONE TO EXPRESS
HIS SUPPORT AND HAD JUST MISSED BEING SHOT DOWN. GIVEN
THIS BACKGROUND, GOT WOULD GIVE ITS UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT TO

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GOZ. GOT HOPED THAT OAU COULD BE MOBILIZED TO BRING ABOUT
AN AFRICAN SOLUTION AND AVOID FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN
SITUATION. TO THIS END, PRESIDENT YEADAMA IS VISITING
LIBREVILLE TODAY (MAY 18) TO CONSULT WITH PRESIDENT BONGO
IN HIS CAPACITY AS OAU CHIEF.

3. ACCORDING TO RANDOLPH, TWO DIFFERENT ANALYSES OF

SHABA SITUATION WERE CURRENT IN AFRICA. THE FIRST TOOK AT FACE VALUE MOBUTO'S STATEMENT THAT INVASION WAS BACKED BY COMMUNISTS AND "PROGRESSIVES": USSR, CUBA, ALGERIA AND LIBYA. KATANGAN "GENDARMES" WERE A SIMPLE TOOL OF ATTEMPT BY THESE COUNTRIES TO INCREASE INFLUENCE IN ECONOMICALLY AND STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT AREA IN CENTRAL AFRICA. THIS ANALYSIS LED TO LOGICAL CONCLUSION THAT EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO REPULSE INVASION. SECOND INTERPRETATION WAS THAT SHABA SITUATION ESSENTIALLY INTERNAL PROBLEM REFLECTING ESSENTIAL WEAKNESSES OF MOBUTO'S GOVERNMENT. KATANGAN GENDARMES INVASION WAS ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF REGIONAL DISSATISFACTION WITH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND LATEST REFLECTION OF SECESSIONIST SENTIMENTS IN SHABA. ALTHOUGH RANDOLPH ADMITTED THAT BOTH ANALYSES HAD SOME FOUNDATION, GOT WOULD DO OR SAY NOTHING TO CONTRADICT MOBUTO'S CHARGES OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION.

4. AFTER CHARGE HAD CONVEYED US VIEWS AND CONCERNS FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS IN REF A AND GIVEN RUNDOWN ON MILITARY SITUATION AND STATUS OF US CITIZENS IN COMBAT ZONE BASED ON SITREPS, RANDOLPH REMARKED THAT THIS INVASION WAS PROBABLY MORE SERIOUS THAN LAST YEAR'S. FOREIGN SUPPORT OF THE GOZ IN 1977 HAD NOT LED TO DEFEAT OF KATANGAN FORCES, ONLY THEIR DISENGAGEMENT. THIS YEAR INVADERS AND THEIR SPONSORS MUUT BE CONFIDENT THAT THEY CAN FACE UP TO ANY FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES WHICH MIGHT INTERVENE ON
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MOBUTO'S BEHALF. HE SPECULATED IF FRANCE WOULD BE AS PREPARED THIS TIME TO INTERVENE IN LIGHT OF ITS MILITARY COMMITMENTS ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA AND OF ITS INVOLVEMENT LAST YEAR TO DETER A NEW INVASION.

5. RANDOLPH STRESSED UTILITY OF SUCH EXCHANGES OF VIEWS BETWEEN FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND TOOK NOTE OF CHARGE'S READINESS TO SERVE AS CHANNEL SHOULD PRESIDENT EYADEMA WISH TO CONVEY HIS VIEWS OR SUGGESTIONS TO USG.

6. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT THIS MESSAGE AS APPROPRIATE.
YOUNG

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